

The setting system includes a hydrocolloid or mixtures of hydrocolloids and may contain in addition cations and/or sequestering agents.

5 IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-30 without prejudice.

Please insert the following new claims.

31. A container for housing a unit dosage form of a deliverable material comprising polyvinyl alcohol and a setting system in the absence of gelatin as the principal container forming material.

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32. The container according to claim 31 wherein the deliverable material is selected from the group consisting of agrochemicals, seeds, herbs, foodstuffs, dyestuffs, pharmaceuticals, flavoring agents and combinations thereof.

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33. The container according to claim 31 which is the form of a capsule or caplet.

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34. The container according to claim 31, having at least one coating thereon.

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35. The container according to claim 34 wherein the at least one coating is made from a substance selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate phthalate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, methacrylic acid gelatins, hypromellose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalates, hydroxalkyl methyl cellulose phthalates and combinations thereof.

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36. The container according to claim 31 wherein the container comprises two halves sealed together.

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37. The container according to claim 36 that the two halves are sealed by a liquid fusion process.

38. The container according to claim 31, wherein the setting system comprises hydrocolloids and cations.

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39. The container according to claim 31, wherein the setting system further comprises a sequestering agent.

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40. The container according to claim 39, wherein the amount of the sequestering agent is 0.001 to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

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41. The container according to claim 39, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the groups consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, acetic acid, boric acid, citric acid, edetic acid, gluconic acid, lactic acid, phosphoric acid, tartaric acid or salts thereof, methaphosphates, dihydroxyethylglycine, lecithin, beta cyclodextrin and combinations thereof.

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42. The container according to claim 39, wherein the sequestering agent is selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, citric acid, their respective salts and combinations thereof.

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43. The container according to claim 38 comprising 90 to 97% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol, 2 to 7% by weight of water, 0.01 to 10% by weight of hydrocolloids, and 0.001 to 5% by weight of cations based on the total weight of the container.

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44. The container according to claim 38, wherein the hydrocolloids are polysaccharides.

45. The container according to claim 44 wherein the polysaccharides are exocellular polysaccharides.

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46. The container according to claim 44, wherein the polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of alginates, agar gum, guar gum, locust bean gum (carob), carrageenan, kappa-carrageenan, tara gum, gum arabic, ghatti gum, khaya grandifolia gum, tragacanth gum, karaya gum, pectin, arabian (araban), xanthan, gellan, starch, konjac mannan, galactomannan, funoran and combinations thereof.

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47. The container according to claim 45, wherein the exocellular polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of xanthan, acutan, gellan, welan, rhamsan, furcelleran, succinoglycan, scleroglycan, schizophyllan, tamarind gum, curdlan, pullulan, dextran and combinations thereof.

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48. The container according to claim 46, wherein the polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of gellan, kappa-carrageenan and combinations thereof and mixtures of locust bean gum or xanthan with konjac mannan.

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49. The container according to claim 31 further comprising an anti-foaming agent.

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50. The container according to claim 31, further comprising at least one plasticizer in an amount from about 0 to 40% based upon the weight of the container.

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51. The container according to claim 50, wherein the plasticizer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, glycerol, sorbitol, sucrose, corn syrup,

fructose, dioctyl-sodium sulfosuccinate, triethyl citrate, tributyl citrate, 1,2-propylenglycol, mono-, di- and triacetates of glycerol, natural gums and combinations thereof.

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52. The container according to claim 31, further comprising a coloring agent in an amount from about 0 to 10% based upon the weight of the container.

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53. The container according to claim 52, wherein the coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of azo-, quinophthalone-, triphenylmethane-, xanthene- or indigoid dyes, iron oxides or hydroxides, titanium dioxide, natural dyes and combinations thereof.

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54. The container according to claim 52, wherein the coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of patent blue V, acid brilliant green BS, red 2G, azorubine, ponceau 4R, amaranth, D+C red 33, D+C yellow 10, yellow 2 G, FD+C yellow 5, FD+C yellow 6, FD+C red 3, FD+C red 40, FD+C blue 1, FD+C blue 2, FD+C green 3, brilliant black BN, and combinations thereof.

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55. The container according to claim 52, wherein the coloring agent is selected from the group consisting of carbon black, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, titanium dioxide, riboflavin, carotenes, anthocyanines, turmeric, cochineal extract, clorophyllin, canthaxanthin, caramel, betanin, and combinations thereof.

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56. A method of manufacturing a container for housing a unit dosage form of a deliverable material comprising a) forming an aqueous solution comprising 10 to 60% by weight of polyvinyl alcohol, 0.01 to 5% by weight of hydrocolloids and 0.001 to 3% by weight of cations and b) dip molding the aqueous solution to form said container.